

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A container assembly comprising:

5 a container body formed of a thermoplastic material having an inner surface, an outer surface, and at least one corner having a reinforcement molded to said outer surface of said corner.

2. A container assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reinforcement has a peripheral edge which is partially embedded in said outer surface of said container body.

10 3. A container assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein said peripheral edge is partially cohesive with said outer surface of said container body.

4. A container assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein said peripheral edge is partially deformed by and is partially embedded in the thermoplastic material to provide locking engagement between said reinforcement and said container body.

15 5. A container assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reinforcement comprises an injection molded thermoplastic material.

6. A container assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material comprising said container assembly is polyethylene.

20 7. A container assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reinforcement includes a hole therethrough for preventing formation of a gap between said container body and said reinforcement following molding.

8. A container assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said container body comprises a plurality of fixtures partially embedded into said container body, each of said fixtures includes a section being defined by a threaded neck portion having an interior and a cap adapted to be threaded upon said neck portion.

25 9. A container assembly as set forth in claim 8 including internal components interchangeable among said plurality of fixtures, whereby various components can be interchangeably mounted upon said plurality of fixtures.

10. A method of making a container assembly having reinforced corners, said method comprising the steps of:

30 disposing a reinforcement into an orifice of a mold, the mold having an inner surface defining an outer surface of a container, wherein the reinforcement includes

a peripheral edge which is adapted to be partially embedded in the outer surface of the container; and

5 forming the container body by disposing a fluid thermoplastic material into the mold and simultaneously molding the thermoplastic material over the inner surface of the mold and over the peripheral edge of the reinforcement thereby forming the container body and molding the reinforcement to the outer surface of the container body.

10 11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said forming step is further defined as forming a container body having walls defining the container, the reinforcement and the walls being coexistent.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said forming step is further defined as partially cohesively bonding the peripheral edge with the outer surface of the container body

15 13. A method as set forth in claim 12 further including the step of deforming the peripheral edge to provide locking engagement between the reinforcement and the container body.

14. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein thermoplastic material is polyethylene.

20 15. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the reinforcement is injection molded of a thermoplastic material.

16. A method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the thermoplastic material is polyethylene.

17. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said forming step is further defined as disposing a parison of a fluid thermoplastic material in the mold.

25 18. A method as set forth in claim 17 further including the step of blowing a pressurized gas into the parison, thereby expanding the parison and conforming the parison to the inner surface of the mold.

30 19. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the reinforcement includes an indexing pin disposed on its outer surface, the orifice of the mold including indexing means for receiving the indexing pin disposed on the reinforcement, whereby the reinforcement is retained in position during said forming step.

20. A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein the indexing means includes biasing means for maintaining controlled positioning of the reinforcement.

5

21. A method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the biasing means includes a receiver disposed in a first aperture in the mold, said receiver including at one end a cylindrical portion having a bore for receiving the index pin disposed on the reinforcement and a base portion disposed at the opposite end, the receiver being laterally displaceable within the aperture.

10
22. A method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the biasing means includes a spring disposed in a second aperture in the mold, the spring being perpendicularly disposed with respect to the cylindrical portion, whereby the spring radially biases the receiver within the first aperture.

15